

## Talking Points

1. Thank you for traveling to Region 7 for this meeting, on relatively short notice. We appreciate your being here. We also appreciate our state partners from the MO AG's office being here as well.
2. We asked you here today to share EPA's serious concerns about the smoldering event at the Bridgeton Landfill. We are concerned about the public health consequences. We are especially concerned how that continued smoldering could affect the integrity of a Superfund remedy selected at the adjacent West Lake Landfill Site and the ongoing work that is being conducted to evaluate other alternatives.
3. I want to be very clear with you here today. This issue is as important to me right now as any issue we are dealing with here in Region 7. It has my full attention, and it also has the attention of my bosses in Washington.
4. We have a short video that pretty vividly shows why we are so concerned. (Show video that reflects data provided by Republic, about 45 sec. See notes attached for explanation.)
5. Now I know there is lots of room for debate about exactly where the fire boundaries are today, and how far it has spread, and how fast it might be spreading. Two things I think we can all agree on is that the subsurface fire is burning, and that it is imperative that it not spread further. Region 7 has now enlisted several advisors from around the agency, and today's discussion will help them and assist us, and the state.
6. I am aware that Republic and other PRPs have worked cooperatively with EPA for a number of years. I also know that Republic is working with the state right now under a court order. That said, this issue is obviously not under control yet and you still have critical work to do.
7. In recent months, while the profile of this matter has risen sharply, EPA has not been alarmist and we have not jumped to conclusions. But do not mistake that for lack of concern on our part.
8. Like the state, we have a responsibility to protect human health and the environment, and we are concerned about the impacts of the fire right now on people who live and work near the landfill.
9. We are also obviously extremely concerned about the possibility that the fire could

spread closer to the area of the landfill that is the subject of the Superfund remedy and that contains radioactive wastes. I am sure you know this, but I want to emphasize this because it is so important. If the fire is not under control, and if it spreads towards the Superfund portion of the landfill, it will affect our choice of options for the Superfund remedy.

10. We maintain close communication with the state, and our hope is that your efforts in working with the DNR and the MO AG's office are successful.
11. But if not, and if at any point we determine you are not doing enough to address the fire, we will not hesitate to use our own authorities to require action. We need to know that you are doing whatever is necessary to contain and extinguish the fire.
12. So, I look forward to hearing from you today and learning more about what you have done and are planning to do.